

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 03361 200643Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4643

S E C R E T AMMAN 3361

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, US, SA, JO, XF

SUBJ: US STATEMENT ON OIL EMBARGO

1. KING USED OCCASION OF OUR MEETING MAY 19 TO TELL ME HOW DISAPPOINTED HE WAS AT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT ON POSSIBLE USE OF MILITARY FORCE TO BREAK ANY NEW OIL EMBARGO. (IN ABSENCE FULL TEST) I EXPLAINED STATEMENT CAME IN CONTEXT CLEAR WARNING TO NORTH KOREANS AND OTHERS NOT TO BE TEMPTED TO START TROUBLE OR PRESSURE US ON BASIS ANY INTERPRETATION THEY MIGHT MAKE OF OUR RESOLVE AFTER VIETNAM AND CAMBODIAN EVENTS, HE WAS CLEARLY NOT SATISFIED.

2. HE INDICATED THAT HE THOUGHT WE HAD JUST GOTTEN SAUDIS DOWN OFF THE CEILING AFTER LAST SERIES SUCH STATEMENTS. HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY FAHD AND KHALED ON HIS LAST VISIT TO WASHINGTON TO EXPLAIN THAT EMBARGO WAS NOT CONTEMPLATED UNLESS ISRAEL BEGAN WAR AND US MOVED INTO ASSIST AND THAT SAUDIS HOPED US COULD KEEP DISCUSSION OF ISSUE OFF FRONT PAGES. (MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT HE SAID SOMETHING ALONG THESE LINES TO PRESIDENT). WHILE HE DID NOT ADD THAT IT WAS DISAPPOINTMENT TO HIM TO HAVE IT CROP UP AGAIN, WAY IN WHICH HE BROUGHT IT UP WITH ME MAKES IT CLEAR THAT SUCH WAS CASE. HE ALSO CLEARLY

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FEELS HIS CREDIBILITY WITH SAUDIS, WHICH

HE HAS SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME DEVELOPING, IS
UNDERMINED.

3. I DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN DO
IMMEDIATELY. BUT IN ANY MESSAGE WHICH YOU MAY BE
SENDING TO KING IN NEAR FUTURE, SOME REASSURANCE THAT
WE UNDERSTAND HIS CONCERN AND WHATEVER ELSE WE CAN ADD
TO DEFUSE THAT CONCERN, WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE
AND HELPFUL.

4. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPAT JIDDA.
PICKERING

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